

The Council re-assembled at the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 11 a.m. on Thursday, the 22nd day of March 1923, the hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., President, presiding.

I

AMENDMENTS TO STANDING ORDERS.

The hon. the PRESIDENT announced that the amendments to the Standing Orders passed by the Council on the 12th March 1923 received the assent of His Excellency the Governor on the 20th March 1923.

II

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS.

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—"I beg to present to this Council a monster petition signed by over 20,000 people belonging to the district of South Kanara and consisting of big landholders, vakils, doctors, temple owners and others regarding the Hindu Religious Endowments Bill.

"I have the honour to present another petition in connexion with the Hindu Religious Endowments Bill signed by the Mahant of Tirupati on the same lines as the other petition.

"Both these petitions fulfil the requirements of the Standing Orders."

The SECRETARY then read an abstract of the petitions.

III

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS FOR 1922-23.

The consideration of the demands for supplementary grants for 1922-23 left over from the list of business for the 20th March 1923 was resumed.

Grant III.

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur :—"Sir, I beg to move—

That the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 1.02 lakhs under 'Stamps'.

The various items which go to make up this grant and the reasons which have contributed to an increase of expenditure under each one of them will be found fully explained at pages 3 and 4 of the detailed memoranda attached to the schedule of supplementary demands."

The motion was put and carried and the grant made.

Grant IV.

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"Sir, I beg to move—

That the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 27,800 under 'Forests' to meet additional expenditure on account of loss by Exchange."

The motion was put and carried and the grant made.

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"Sir, I beg to move—

That the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 1,29,100 under 'Forests' to meet additional expenditure under 'General Direction—Establishment and Buildings'.

[Mr. A. R. Knapp]

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Grant IV—cont.

The circumstances under which this additional sum is required are explained in considerable detail in the printed memoranda. There is only one remark I wish to make in this connexion. In the Budget of the current year my predecessor promised to effect a lump cut amounting to Rs. 1,06,000. At first sight it may appear to hon. Members, when this supplementary grant is brought forward, that that cut has not been carried out. But that is not correct. The cut promised by my predecessor has been faithfully carried out. An examination of the details of the present demand will show that the actual net excess over the sanctioned grant is Rs. 29,100, and that, as will be seen, is almost completely accounted for by one of the items in the demand, namely, arrears of pay to clerks, an item which was not provided for in the Budget. I make this remark to show to hon. Members that we have not failed to put into effect the undertaking given by my predecessor last year."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Sir, one of the items that go to make up this grant of Rs. 1,29,100 is this: a sum of Rs. 10,000 for 12 additional supernumerary Rangers not provided for in the Budget. I cannot understand why so many as 12 supernumerary Rangers have been provided after the passing of the Budget last year. I can understand if there was a necessity for the appointment of one or two Rangers; but I cannot understand why so many as 12 have been appointed and why this could not have been foreseen when the Budget was presented."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—" Sir, my hon. friend has touched on a very complicated item in the forest organization. The origin of the supernumerary Rangers is this: at the time when the Forest Department was reorganized in the year 1919, we had a class of Deputy Rangers. We decided that the Deputy Ranger fulfilled no useful purpose and we made up our minds to abolish him. The question then arose what was to be done with the men who at that time held the rank of Deputy Ranger. The suggestion was that they should be placed in the class of Forester, a grade which was inferior to that of the Deputy Ranger. We had no other alternative because the Deputy Rangers were not qualified by training to be promoted to the office of Rangers. But in fairness to them we had to undertake that those who were otherwise qualified would be given the option of going to the Forest College and getting themselves qualified for the post of Rangers. The result is that we have had to train certain number of these men. We have been training them in batches of six, and we promised them that when they had undergone their training, we would place them slightly above the class of Foresters and rank them as supernumerary Rangers. I may at once say that they do not get the pay of Rangers. The question how many of these men are to be provided for in our Budget depends upon the prospect of work during the year. These men are filling leave and acting vacancies and doing odd jobs as they turn up. What has happened this year is that Mr. Cox (Chief Conservator of Forests), having something like 26 of these supernumerary Rangers on his list, expected that they would all but twelve be absorbed in Rangers' work of some kind during the year. As a matter of fact there was some stoppage in our works owing to the cut of Rs. 1,06,000 which my predecessor promised last year. The result was that the opportunities for the employment of these men as Rangers were fewer than was anticipated and they had to continue to be shown as supernumerary Rangers. It is not

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[Mr. A. R. Knapp]

Grant IV—cont.

a question of our deliberately appointing these men during the year. They come automatically from the Forest College. I am now considering the possibility of ending this arrangement, because we cannot go on indefinitely like this."

The motion was put and carried and the grant made.

Grant VII.

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—" Sir, I beg to move—

That the Government be granted a sum of Rs. 15,613 under the head '22-A (c). General Administration—Tour expenses—Special trains for His Excellency's own use and haulage of his saloon carriages.'

The circumstances under which this grant is asked for are explained in the printed memoranda."

The motion was put and carried and the grant made.

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—" Sir, I beg to move—

That the Government be granted a sum of Rs. 19,600 under 'Staff and Household of His Excellency the Governor.'

The motion was put and carried and the grant made.

Grant IX.

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—" Sir, I beg to move—

That the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 90,000 under General Administration.

I have a full explanation here of all the details which go to make up this amount if the Council wish for them, but they are also given more briefly in the memorandum."

Mr. A. T. PALMER :—" Mr. President, Sir, in this connexion, I beg to be permitted to say a few words with regard to the Secretariat Department. The department is under three Secretaries."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Order, order. The hon. Member should have given notice of some sort of reduction, say, a reduction by Rs. 100, to enable him to pass his remarks. But he may ask for any information in regard to the demand to enable him to make up his mind whether to vote for or against it."

Mr. A. T. PALMER :—" I should like to know, Sir, in connexion with this grant whether it is a fact that a seventh Superintendent was appointed and the Government Order regarding proper representation of communities was not taken into consideration."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—" The grant in question has nothing to do with communal representation. It is concerned, in the first place, with exchange, and in the second, with the refund of lapsed deposits."

The motion was put and carried and the grant made.

Grant XI.

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Sir, I beg to move—

That the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 77,650 under 'Administration of Justice—Criminal Courts'.

[Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar]

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Grant XI—cont.

From page 6 of the memoranda it would appear that this amount represents pay of special and summary Magistrates appointed to try cases connected with the Mappilla rebellion, time-scale of pay to certain subordinates and a few other items."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"Sir, one of the items under this grant is a sum of Rs. 12,000 said to represent the cost of introducing the time-scale of pay to subordinate magisterial staff in the districts of Kistna, Guntur, Nellore, Anantapur, Bellary, Madura, Salem and South Kanara. If the time-scale was fixed before the Budget was framed there is no reason why this sum should be granted now. If it was fixed after the Budget was framed, I cannot see the need for it. I wish to know, Sir, whether the time-scale of pay was fixed before the Budget was framed and if so, why this was not put in the Budget."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"The time-scale of pay was fixed before the Budget was framed; but it is a very complicated matter to work out each individual case."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"Though it is a complicated matter, it should have been possible to have included it in the Budget. However I do not object to it."

The motion was put and carried and the grant made.

Grant XIII.

11-15 a.m.

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Sir, I beg to move—

That the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 4,37,417 under 'Police'.

As it will be seen from the memorandum, the main items responsible for this excess are travelling allowance and the cost of railway warrants; the excess under the former being Rs. 2,10,000 and that under the latter being Rs. 3,33,000. As has been pointed out in the same memorandum, as the result of rigorous economy the amount of 5.43 lakhs has been reduced to 4.37 lakhs."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"I wish to know whether Government should wait till the end of the year to find out what would be the total excess they would be required to make up. Is it not the case that they are in a position to know from time to time what extra funds are necessary for a particular item; and, if so, why should they not come before the Council then? This practice seems open to objection. I should like to know whether they cannot come before the House from time to time as occasion arises for the supplementary grants."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—"Sir, I should like to say in reply that whenever we do get any increase in expenditure which we can define, we do come before the Council for supplementary grants. In fact the House has been complaining that we are coming for too many supplementary grants. Now, after the Budget was passed, the Government of India increased the railway fares. That made it clear that unless we stopped officers from travelling we should have to pay more for travelling allowance. In the majority of Departments we have been able to keep down to the Budget

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[Sir Charles Todhunter]

Grant XIII—cont.

allotments in spite of the increase in railway fares. But owing to the troubles which have taken place in Malabar and the Agency, we could not restrict the travelling and avoid the payment of increased railway fares. We could not exactly say how much additional would be necessary, and we did not wish to trouble the Council with a revised estimate every time we found an unavoidable increase in a particular item."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"Since the railway fares had been increased long ago it should have been possible for the hon. the Finance Member to anticipate by how much the amount was likely to be exceeded."

The motion was put and carried and the grant was made.

Grant XIV.

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—"I beg to move—

That the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 6,000 under 'Scientific Departments'—

	RS.
Cost of publication of the 'Flora of Madras'	4,000
Loss by exchange	2,000
Total ..	6,000

Sir, at the request of this Government, the Secretary of State arranged in 1910 with Mr. Gamble, a well-known Botanist, for the preparation of the 'Flora of Madras' on the following terms :—

- (1) That the author should be paid a bonus of £50 for each part published ;
- (2) that the Madras Government should purchase 500 copies of the book at a discount of 12½ per cent of the issue price ;
- (3) that the whole expenditure should be borne by the Madras Government.

This publication is likely to comprise eight parts of which four parts have so far been published. The fourth part was published last year ; but the publication was not foreseen and no provision was made in the estimates for 1922-23. The High Commissioner now reports that an expenditure of Rs. 6,000 as detailed by me has been incurred. This amount of Rs. 6,000 is now required in the estimates of 1922-23 under Grant XIV—Scientific Departments. I therefore submit that the House may grant this sum."

Mr. T. SIVASANKARAM PILLAI :—"It was said that the order was given in 1910. There had been sufficient time for the publication of the whole book. It has been hanging fire for so many years and the hon. the Minister says that only four parts have been published hitherto. When will the remaining parts be published, and how many parts are going to be published next year?"

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—"Sir, it is suggested that the whole of the expenditure should be borne by the Government of Madras and that the author should be paid a bonus of £50 for each part. Then what is the meaning of the Madras Government purchasing 500 copies at a discount of 12½ per cent? When the whole expenditure is borne by the Madras Government it means that all the copies belong to the Madras Government. Am I to understand that the author keeps the copyright for himself and the Madras Government bears all the expenditure and also buys 500 copies?"

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Grant XIV—cont.

Rao Bahadur K. GOPALAKRISHNAYYA :—" Sir, I should like to ask what the price of each part is. I also want to know whether all the 500 copies will be distributed among the Departments or whether any of them will be available with Government for sale."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—" Sir, all I can say is this contract was entered into at a very much earlier period than I can think of answering in detail. It was an agreement the Secretary of State entered into with the consent of the Madras Government. I will only submit that the House will realize the importance of fulfilling contracts entered into by the previous Government. As for the information sought, I am afraid I am not in a position to supply the hon. Members with it because it requires my going into previous records."

The motion was put and carried and the grant was made.

Grant XVII.

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" I beg to move—

That the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 44,310 for meeting excess expenditure under 'Medical'.

Sir, the details of the demand are explained at page 7 of the hon. the Finance Member's memorandum."

The motion was put and carried and the grant was made.

Grant XXVIII.

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—" I beg to move—

That the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 13,306 under '41-B. Civil Works'.

Sir, the details of this grant are explained on page 9 of the memorandum."

The motion was put and carried and the grant was made.

Grant XXIX.

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—" I beg to move—

That the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 2,55,485 under '45. Superannuation Allowances and Pensions—Reserved'.

Sir, the bulk of this amount is due to the fact that our calculations on averages of the number of persons likely to take pension happen not to be borne out by the actuals of the year. There were more persons who applied for pension than we expected. Another large item is due to the exchange. In connexion with this, I might perhaps explain that I have just received a letter from the Auditor-General to the effect that we should not ask for a supplementary grant in a case like this where the excess is due to a change in classification but should ask sanction to a reappropriation instead."

The motion was put and carried and the grant made.

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Grant XXXI.

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—" I beg to move—

That the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 16,700 under '46. Stationery and Printing—Transferred'.

Sir, details of this demand are given at page 10 of the memorandum."

The motion was put and carried and the grant made.

Grant XXXIII.

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—" Sir, I beg to move—

That the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 18,442 under 'Agency'."

The motion was put and carried and the grant made.

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—" Sir, I beg to move—

That the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 16,112 under '26. Police Agency'."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" Sir, I beg to move—

To reduce the supplemental demand for Rs. 16,112 under '26. Police' by Rs. 100.

In moving this reduction, I want to discuss the policy underlying the press communiqué, dated 26th February 1923, for the upkeep of punitive police in the Agency tracts. This action has been taken by Government, under section 15 of the Police Act, to bring home to the people of the locality their responsibility. The Government are now considering the question of quartering police detachments in the locality and recovering the cost of them from the villagers under section 15 of the Police Act.

"Sir, ordinarily, we would have thought it fit to table a Resolution to discuss the principle underlying such a policy of the Government; but since the House is going to be dissolved very soon, and since we will have no opportunity to discuss such important questions, I thought it would be well to table a motion of this kind. Fituris are very scarce in the Agency tracts. We had a fituri in the eighties, and that fituri has repeated itself after 30 or 40 years. This last fituri began in the August of 1922, and after a month the Government came to this House for a supplementary grant of one lakh of rupees. While discussing that grant, the hon. Member for Kistna remarked :

I am sure that the local officers and the local people would be able to tell us more about the causes of this rebellion, or rather, I hope, that the representatives from that part of the country would add to my remarks.

"And my hon. friend, Mr. C. R. Reddi, while discussing this very question said :

We all know that a definite assurance was given by the right hon. Mr. Montagu when he was Secretary of State for India that any time the military were brought in to restore peace and order, the restoration of peace would be immediately followed by the institution of an inquiry of the kind now suggested.

"The House discussed the necessity of appointing a committee to inquire into the causes of this rebellion, and instead of doing anything of the kind, we are surprised to find the Government have, under the executive powers vested in them, issued the notification which I have referred to,

[Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo]

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Grant XXXIII—cont.

“In this connexion I may bring to the notice of the House that we
 11-30 a.m. people outside the fituri areas know very little of what is going
 on in regard to the operations there. We have a number of
 police officers who are very highly paid, some subordinate police officers and
 an army of police men; we have been spending lots of money over them
 without knowing anything. I would, therefore, request the Government to
 consider this aspect of the question and take the hon. Members of this House
 into their confidence before they inaugurate such a policy. With these
 observations, I move the motion that stands in my name.”

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—“Mr. President, my friend,
 Mr. Das, has already referred to the communiqué issued by the Government.
 If I understand the press communiqué correctly, it means that the Govern-
 ment want to put an end to the fituri as early as possible by adopting three
 methods: the first method is to prosecute the village officers and other village
 people on the ground that they did not give information to the Government
 officials whenever the fituridars passed through their village or halted in
 their village; the second method is to prosecute the rebels that have been
 already taken hold of; and the third method is to have punitive police
 stationed in various villages. As to the desirability of prosecuting the
 village officers for helping the fituridars, I do not believe there are village
 officers who will so help the rebels. I was told that already a batch of
 eighteen or so of the village officers were tried and sent to various terms
 of imprisonment extending from three to eighteen months. This, I might say,
 has already created some impression that the local people who have nothing to
 do with the fituri are being run down by the Government officials. Any
 person who is acquainted with the condition in which the people live in the
 Agency tracts will understand that there is something wrong with the policy
 of establishing punitive police in the Agency. The villages do not consist of
 more than two or three huts and they can be made or unmade within a period
 of 24 hours. If really the punitive police is to be established in any village,
 it is only to strike terror in the villages and drive the people away into the
 interior of the Agency. So far as the complaints we have already received
 from the Agency on account of the policy hitherto adopted are concerned,
 there is one that the *podu* cultivation has been much reduced, and another
 that there has been influenza. Whichever is the cause, there is already a
 reduction of population. The scaring away of the Agency people by punitive
 police and thus reducing the population will be a highly undesirable thing.

“In the matter of the prosecutions, I am told that the Government or the
 local officials, not being satisfied with the services of the Public Prosecutor
 who is serving in the Agency division, are also having the services of an
 additional Public Prosecutor. I questioned the desirability of increasing the
 strength of the prosecution by employing too many people, especially in cases
 where there will not be any defence on the side of the rebels that are
 prosecuted. Perhaps the local officials want some more expenditure on the
 various items. The local impression is that the whole thing is being carried
 on by sheer extravagance, and this seems to be another item added to the
 extravagances of the Government.”

Mr. M. SURYANARAYANA :—“Mr. President, the question for considera-
 tion is whether the Government is well advised in having the punitive police
 quartered in the Agency tract. My hon. friend, Mr. Narasimha Raju,

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Grant XXXIII—cont.

has already told the House what Agency dwellings really mean. I do not know if the hon. Mr. Knapp has personal experience of the Agency tract and of the villages there. I have been told that in some of those areas a number of villages which you can find to-day will not be found to-morrow; and to say that punitive police should be quartered in such villages is only to allow an absolute waste of money by the Government. For, if you do not find any villages at all, who will pay this high cost of the punitive police? Practically it will be a charge on the general tax-payer and not a tax on the particular people who live in the Agency. I do not think that the district in its entirety, including the local boards, should pay for the punitive police. The real causes for the fituri are economic to a very large extent. In addition to the reason given by Mr. Narasimha Raju, namely, the prevention of the *podu* cultivation, I would also say that the reservation of a large extent of land for forest purposes is another cause which perhaps is rankling in the minds of the Agency people to a large extent.

"One thing I would submit in regard to the Agency villagers is that you ought to be somewhat considerate to them in these matters. They are a very timid sort of people. A story goes—I do not know how far it is really true; I have not verified it—that on one occasion a Government official asked a villager in the Agency whether the fituridars did not pass through the village and as to whether rice was not supplied to them by the villagers. The villagers admitted that it was so. When asked why they allowed them to come and supplied them with rice, etc., the reply given was that it was for the same reason that the police had given their rifles to the fituridars. That was the state of mind of these villagers, because the fituridars, when they come, tell the people 'if you do not give us what we want and if you tell anything to the officials, your village will be plundered or your houses will be burnt.' Being very timid people, they are frightened by these threats. You have to take this aspect of the question into consideration in regard to the Agency people when you consider the question of launching out prosecutions or quartering punitive police in their tracts."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"Sir, though the portfolio of the Police administration belongs to my hon. colleague on the right, I must seize this opportunity nevertheless to protest against the tendency which so often appears in this House to accuse the police all over the Presidency of surrendering arms. It has just been suggested that the police in the Agency gave up their rifles to the fituridars. I should like my hon. friend to give me one instance."

Mr. M. SURYANARAYANA:—"When the fituri was first started it was said that the fituridars went to the police stations and took away the rifles."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"That is another question. I wanted to have an instance of the police giving away their rifles to the rebels as was suggested."

"I understood from my hon. friend who made this motion—"

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"I believe that in the press communiqué, or perhaps in the daily press, it was said that one of the divisional officers with his party was attacked by the fituridars and that the party gave up all the ammunition and the arms in their possession."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"Sir, that officer was defeated and he had to retreat, and one of the party was killed. That is very different from saying

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Grant XXXIII—cont.

that the party surrendered their rifles. It has been suggested that the police abjectly surrendered their arms, and it is to correct that impression that I wanted to refer to the matter.

"My hon. friend who made this motion suggested, I think, that some kind of inquiry committee was needed. I do not think he is right in claiming that I made any promise to that effect. What I said was that inquiries would be made. But after hearing the discussion this morning I should almost be justified in saying that there is no room for inquiry. My hon. friends on the other side of the House have told us what the causes of the fituri were, and they claim to have local knowledge. But that is not my position, and so far as I am concerned, I am determined to get to the bottom of the whole business. Mr. Happell who is shortly going on leave owing to the reduction of the forces now about to take place, will write a report on the information which he has obtained and as soon as we get the report the question will be considered whether the fituri is or is not explained satisfactorily and whether any further inquiry is necessary. Until we get Mr. Happell's report, I must obviously suspend judgment altogether as to the causes of the fituri.

"There is another point incidentally referred to by my hon. friend across the table in regard to the trial of cases in connexion with fituri. He mentioned that eighteen village officers were tried and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment, and he suggested, I think, that this was in the nature of a persecution. I have no details of the particular cases in which the sentences were passed. But I assume that all the cases stood the test of the courts and it is only where the courts found the persons guilty that punishments were awarded."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—"I said the prosecutions were intended to strike terror in the minds of the people."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"I take it that the prosecutions were intended for the purpose of punishing those who offended against the law.

"The main trend of this discussion was in connexion with the punitive police. One hon. Member said, perfectly rightly, that there was no reason why the general tax-payer should pay for the police which was found necessary to put down a local rebellion in the Agency. That is exactly the attitude which the Government have been adopting, and I am very glad to get that support from him. What we say is that our operations there are being prolonged by the attitude and conduct of the people who not only persistently refuse to give the police and our officers that assistance any law-abiding citizen ought to give us, but they go further and are helping what remains of the fituri gang. The gang has now been reduced to very small numbers, to something like 15 or 20 people. But we are still not able to catch them, and it is perfectly obvious that we cannot allow them thus to carry on month after month, perhaps even year after year.

"One hon. Member has reminded me that I have no personal knowledge of the Agency. That is true. But I am sorry that those hon. Members who claim some knowledge of the area have not come forward with any constructive suggestions or alternatives. If there is any suggestion which will go to help the Government in this matter I should only be too glad to receive it. But until some such suggestion is forthcoming the Government can only adopt the policy which seems best to them. It is perfectly legitimate in the

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Grant XXXIII—cont.

public interest—and I think that it is probably the only way to deal with the matter—to bring home to the people of the Agency their responsibilities and to ask them to help us in capturing the fituridars.”

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—“ Sir, the hon. Member for the Agency, in the course of his reply stated that he did not make
11-45 a.m. any definite promise—”

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—“ What I said was that I was not sure that I had made any such promise.”

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—“ I may only remind the hon. Member of what he said in his speech on the 13th November 1922. He said :

When we have put the fire out, it will be absolutely essential to try and discover the causes of it and the way in which to prevent further conflagrations. My hon. friend, Mr. Ramachandra Rao, is inclined to think that some measure of conciliation is possible and he quoted a precedent from what my predecessor did in 1879 . . . All I need add is to repeat that we have every intention to make the fullest possible investigation as soon as the conditions will allow us to do so. Mr. Huggins has recently joined as Agency Commissioner. (Hitherto we had only an acting man.) I hope to be able to see him next week and I shall not lose the opportunity of ascertaining from him as definitely as possible what the causes of the rebellion are as far as they are ascertainable, and I shall impress upon him the necessity of losing no opportunity of discovering what grievances there may be. I think it is most likely that there may be grievances which have to be redressed. I can assure the House that any information that we may get sooner or later on the subject will be fully laid before the House for information.

“ Sir, my complaint is this, that after all the time that has elapsed, still we have not been able to know what the causes are that led to this rebellion, and the hon. Member in charge of the Agency portfolio has not brought to our notice his experiences and the results of his investigations.

“ Another matter which I wish to bring to the notice of the House is this, that it is not really a fact that the people there have not been helping the Government in the matter of putting down the rebellion. The people there are not an enlightened class. They do not understand their responsibilities as members of enlightened communities might do. They are troubled by the fituridars themselves. If the fituridars come to a village, the villagers have to give them supplies because the former force the supplies out of the villagers. And what do the police do? The police in their turn come and ask the villagers whether the fituridars had been given supplies. If they say ‘yes’, they are punished. I want to know if such people have been at all punished, and what is the sort of punishment that was meted out to the villagers who by sheer necessity and on being compelled to do so, had given supplies to the fituridars. Rumours come that they have been badly treated.

“ On the other hand, there are instances where people have really come forward offering their services to help the Government. Take the case of the Maharaja of Jeypore. He has promised a donation of Rs. 50,000, out of which Rs. 25,000 have already been paid by him. That is what I learn; I speak subject to correction. But if this amount of Rs. 50,000 or Rs. 25,000 has come into the hands of the Government I want to know where it is shown. Is there any separate account for donations received from private parties? Again, some twelve elephants were given by the Maharaja of Jeypore to help in the suppression of the rebellion, but no mention of it is found anywhere. Are there any other instances where the Government have got help from private individuals? It is a very sorry spectacle to find that the people who give their money and who give all possible assistance, should be told in the Council that they do not help the Government. When the hon. Member for

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the Agency lays the charge on the people that they have not been helping the Government I rise to say that there are instances like the contribution from the Maharaja of Jeypore that ought to be appreciated in this House as also by the Government. What I mean is this, that the people have been rendering all possible assistance, and that the Government have been trying to secure some unimportant people from their rat-holes, as my hon. friend Mr. Ramachandra Rao put it the other day. It is not possible for all the people of the Agency to come and find out in which corner or in which recess of the forests these fituridars hid themselves and gave trouble.

"In the communiqué the Government have said that there is nothing to report. Evidently, the whole thing has been suppressed. Whether Sitaramaraju has fled from that part of the country or whether he is there, the Government are unable to say. What is the meaning of waiting and seeing whether this man is there or not, and whether his followers are there or not? It is possible that, while the Government is searching for them in one part of the country, they may have gone to another part of the country. Therefore what I say is this. The best thing for the Government will be to take away the cause of this rebellion, I mean to say the root cause of the trouble, and remove the police from that place. The Government have done one very good thing. They have promised rewards to the people who get hold of these rebels. That is, I think, enough for the purpose. I wish to know in this connexion whether the people, as I already stated, have not come to the rescue and help of the Government in this matter, and whether it is justifiable to accuse them of not coming to the assistance of the Government."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—"Sir, one important question which has been raised in connexion with this motion is about the justification for the imposition of the punitive police in the Agency tracts. The communiqué to which attention has been drawn proceeds by saying that the Government received no information regarding the causes of the fituri, and that there is nothing further to report. This being the state of affairs, one could ask for specially justifying circumstances for the imposition of the punitive police in the manner suggested. The hon. Mr. Knapp himself in the course of his remarks has told us that no enquiry has yet been made as to the causes of that disturbance."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"I did not say that no enquiry was made, Sir. What I said was that we were waiting for the report of Mr. Happell before forming any judgment on the matter."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—"From what the hon. Mr. Knapp stated, it seems that no final orders have been passed regarding the subject matter of the enquiry. He tells us that Mr. Happell is shortly to send his report and that after he sends his report, orders will be passed. He has not placed before us any information to show that the villagers concerned have been suspected of being in complicity with the fituridars. That was the only basis upon which the Government should have thought of imposing a punitive police force. In the absence of any information that the villagers have been directly or indirectly aiding these fituridars, it is I think unreasonable and unfair that a punitive police force should be placed there and that they should be called upon to pay for its cost. On the other hand, my hon. friends from the Agency tracts with actual experience of the state of affairs there, have placed before us certain

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facts showing that some of the people have been rendering help to the Government. My hon. friend, Mr. Rath, referred to the case of the Maharaja of Jeypore who had given substantial donations and also placed some of his elephants at the disposal of the Government for the purpose of helping them in quelling the rebellion. This shows that the people are willing to co-operate with the Government in putting an end to the fituri. We have no information to the contrary; and in the absence of any such information, I think we will not be justified in granting this provision for the punitive police in the Agency."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"Sir, the press communiqué to which reference has been made says that it has now become clear that some definite action should be taken to bring home to the people of the locality their responsibility, and that the Government are considering the quartering of a police detachment in the locality and recovering the cost thereof from the villagers under section 15 of the Police Act. I presume that no definite action has been taken as yet and that the Government has not yet come to any decision to quarter punitive police in the Agency. I should like to know whether I am right in saying that no decision has been come to, and my object of saying a few words at this stage is certainly to induce the Government not to quarter any punitive police in the Agency tracts. Our object in raising this question is to inform the Government that so far as the Agency people are concerned, they are a very simple-minded folk, who have very little to fall back upon. As has been stated in the previous discussion, the causes of this rebellion are partly economic. I believe attention was drawn to the report of Mr. Patro in the last discussion, and there is considerable force in the view that there are causes requiring investigation, causes requiring the improvement of the economic position of the people who live in the Agency. Sir, from this point of view, it seems to me that the quartering of the punitive police in the Agency tracts and asking the inhabitants there to contribute to its cost is really a proceeding which may bring about another fituri and another rising in that part of the country. We know very well that it is quite a different thing to quarter punitive police in Kamudi or Guntur or such other places where there is plenty of money: it is quite a different thing, apart from the question of the policy of it. But to quarter punitive police on the hill tribes who live from hand to mouth and on *podu* cultivation, is, I think with all due respect to those gentlemen who proposed this form of punishment a most unwise thing to do. Therefore I should think that this question of quartering a punitive police and recovering the cost from the villagers is one which certainly deserves much more consideration than it seems to have received from the Government.

"It is easy to make these proposals and much more easy to ask us to make constructive suggestions as the hon. Mr. Knapp has done in this debate. I think that the best constructive suggestion that we can make is to, leave matters alone and not to trouble these people any further. It is said that Sitaramaraju, the author of this rising, is not to be found and that he is somewhere unknown. I do not know anything about the other two gentlemen referred to, by the hon. Mr. Knapp. But all that I want to say is that I was recently in Vizagapatam and I was told that the result of all these operations was to drive Sitaramaraju slowly into the Central Provinces; and if this punitive police is to be quartered amid these unfortunate people, it may have

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the effect of pressing him still further into the Central Provinces. I see from the statements of various persons, that the villagers say 'The Government officers come round and ask us to carry their loads, and we do it. So also the fituridars come and ask us to carry their loads, and we do it. We are found fault with for doing the latter. What is it that we have done to deserve this treatment?' These are the hillmen among whom my hon. friend, Mr. Knapp, proposes to quarter a punitive police force. There is no question of winking at fituridars. The whole question is whether by quartering this punitive police my hon. friend would be furthering the object for which he is quartering them, namely, the production of the fituridars before the officers of the Government. I do not believe that this will be the result. The result will be this: the police will be quartered in the Agency. They may have a very nice time there. They may shoot a number of tigers or panthers. They will probably quarrel with the hillmen for milk and fowl and various other things for which they will undoubtedly say that they will pay or that they have paid, or that they have no intention of not paying. All this will certainly go on, and at the end of six months or so, the question of further quartering the punitive police will be considered, and a number of reports will be received from the local officers that the man (Sitaramaraju) has not been produced. I do not think that even from the point of view of putting an end to the fituri, these people are going to do anything more than what they did in the past. Therefore, it is merely a question of considering the broad facts. The ultimate remedy which the Government seem to have thought of is this quartering of the police. They seem to think, 'Don't enquire into the causes of the trouble. Quarter the police for some time and things will settle themselves.' We do not at all believe in this philosophy. We want to go to the bottom of this economic trouble. So far as the previous discussion is concerned, my hon. friend, Mr. Knapp, seemed to have said that no enquiry was made—"

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"May I say, Sir, that an enquiry has been in progress for the last five months? Until I get the report of
12 noon. Mr. Happell, as I said, I cannot come to any final conclusion."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"We do not know that any enquiry is in progress. No press communiqué has been issued. Nobody has been asked about it. At any rate so far as the people of Vizagapatam are concerned, they do not seem to know anything about it. I do not know what sort of enquiry the hon. Member, Mr. Knapp, is thinking of. So far as the people are concerned, they have the right to demand a public enquiry. I have not heard of any single individual who knew the enquiry of Mr. Huggins. The Government may have the benefit of that enquiry, but I should think that this particular method of punishing the hill tribes is not wise. There is still time for the Government to come to a decision on the matter and I hope they will come to the right decision if they propose to abandon this idea."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo:—"Sir, I know many of the zamindars have got Agency tracts under them, and I know that cordial relations exist between them and the hill tribes. It is only a few months back that I was told how cordially the hill men treated the Raja of Parlakimedi and how they even worshipped him like a tin god. But when we come to the Agency that is administered by the Government we hear quite a different tale. The reason is quite obvious. The reason is that the

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Government have not done their duty, have not fulfilled their high expectations towards the hillmen. In the Agency tracts, the executive have combined in themselves the functions of the High Court of Justice and the functions of the Governor. I appeal to the hon. Member in charge of the Agency to make a deep inquiry into the conditions prevailing there. In the Agency tracts the Deputy Tahsildar can do and is doing much more than what the Governor can do in the ordinary tracts. Such being the condition, I think it would be extremely unwise on the part of Government and extremely unwise on the part of this House to allow the existing state of things to continue, to allow the executive to have extraordinary powers and carry on a certain policy that is very much condemned by the people by virtue of powers vested in them under a certain Act.

“The hon. Member for Ganjam, Mr. Rath, has brought to light certain things. He has stated that the Maharaja of Jeypore has made certain contributions and that he has also reason to believe that certain other gentlemen have also made other contributions. I would ask the Government for an account of these contributions. Government, time after time, have been telling us that they had very little to give. I believe, if I remember the very words of the communiqué, they did not give very much information because there was very little information. If that be the condition, I believe it is extremely unwise and I repeat, with all the emphasis that I can command, that it would be extremely unwise on the part of the Government to post punitive police to watch people who always live from hand to mouth and on whom all sorts of oppression have been brought to bear and whose only happiness seems to be the tea-gardens of Assam. Fituris have been, I should say, rare because we have got this fituri after 35 or 40 years; and if this policy is repeated, I think we shall have more fituris and we shall have more of the mischiefs that we have heard of. The hon. Member in charge of the Agency tracts has promised us that he will make an inquiry. I am sorry, Sir, that at this late hour of the day he tells us that he has deputed Mr. Huggins to conduct an inquiry. I thought the promise that he gave involved a promise that he would take some non-officials into his confidence and would have an inquiry by officials and non-officials. I believe, Sir, I have the right to demand of the Government such an inquiry into the state of things. I think the people of the Agency tracts, wretched as they are, have the right to demand a better treatment at the hands of Government and this hon. House. Since I am not satisfied with the explanation given by the hon. Member I have no option but to press the motion to a division.”

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—“I am not sure whether my hon. friend opposite took part in the debate held yesterday afternoon on the Demand under Agency Budget. I am only sorry that he did not then put forth some of the views that he now gives expression to. What he has been pointing out persistently is the necessity for spending a great deal of money to improve the economic condition of the people in the Agency which he tells us is at the bottom of the whole trouble. He has also asked us to bring under closer control the Deputy Tahsildars who are said to be exercising unlimited powers at present. If these are his views, he should have voted yesterday against a reduction of the Agency grant. But he has not done so.”

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Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—"I ask, Sir, is that the only way of controlling the officers or improving the condition of the Agency area?"

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"My hon. friend talks of the necessity of raising the economic condition of the unfortunate people of the Agency. He also referred to the fact that the Deputy Tahsildars were left more or less uncontrolled but the superior establishment which exists to control them it is now proposed to cut down."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—"I should be very sorry if that is the construction put on my speech and the speech of any other hon. Member of this House."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"Repeated reference has been made to the promise that I am supposed to have made to start an inquiry last September. I doubt if my hon. friend has read the proceedings of the date in question. What I said was that it would be possible to arrive at a final decision only after inquiry. I mentioned incidentally that I was going to Narasapatam and should see Mr. Huggins myself and obtain his views. I did go there. Mr. Huggins had not at that time been right through the fituri country. For various reasons he could not do so. Mr. Huggins has taken every opportunity of getting what information was obtainable from those who were in a position to give information from actual knowledge—and in that definition, Sir, I do not include a gentleman who lives in Waltair; my hon. friend Mr. Ramachandra Rao complains that no one in Waltair was consulted."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"My hon. friend has no right to say that I referred to Waltair. I said that no one in Vizagapatam knew of it."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"The fact is Mr. Huggins consulted very many people who actually knew at first hand what the facts were. In due course we will get Mr. Happell's report and not till then will it be possible for us to make up our minds. Reference has been made to the fact that the Maharaja of Jeypore has generously made certain contributions for the benefit of the forces operating in the area and there was a sort of suggestion that the money had disappeared."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—"There was no suggestion that the money was disappearing, but certainly there is an allegation that the money is not shown in any account."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"When the hon. gentleman said that he had a right to demand an account, there was a sort of implication that if he did not demand it it would not be forthcoming."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—"We ought to know where the amount is shown."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"I may mention here, Sir, that a portion of money was paid yesterday."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—"Are we to understand that the portion that was paid yesterday was the first portion?"

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"The first portion, Sir, was paid several weeks ago; it was handed over to Mr. Huggins to be distributed amongst the police. I am very doubtful, Sir, if this amount will appear in Government accounts. It was not a payment to Government. If the

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House is interested in the details, I may say that it was originally a payment in rice.. The Maharaja of Jeypore converted that into money and handed over actual cash to Mr. Huggins. The first instalment was paid some weeks ago, and the second was paid yesterday."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo:—"Is it a voluntary payment or did the Government ask for it?"

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"I do not think I am entitled to go into the motives of the Maharaja."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo:—"It is not the motive that has to be gone into, Sir. I ask whether the Maharaja as an Agency chief, owning a large tract of the Agency, was asked by the Government for help."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"He has not been asked by the Government. I may suggest to my hon. friend to question the Maharaja himself in private rather than question me. I should like to take this opportunity of publicly thanking the Maharaja for his generosity. Our thanks have already been conveyed to him in a letter. In due course, when we receive Mr. Happell's report, further reference will be made to his gift. The suggestion now made appears to be that since the Maharaja has been so generous to the police, it is quite wrong to say that people in the Agency affected by the fituri have been backward in giving us help. I do not quite see the connexion. We do not accuse the Maharaja of harbouring fituridars. Nothing is farther from our minds. . . ."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo:—"What I meant was that there were people who, like the Maharaja, voluntarily gave donations for the suppression of the fituri."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"I am not aware of contributions of a similar kind. If my hon. friend is aware of any, he can give an account of it."

"There seems to be some misunderstanding on the part of Mr. Ramachandra Rao as to what exactly is our position. He advised us to leave things alone. I must say that I am astonished at this suggestion. As the executive Government it is our duty to see that these criminals, the jam brothers and the Raju are caught, and I ask whether, in the opinion of the hon. Member, we should leave off all attempts to catch them and allow them to roam over the Agency free from prosecutions or anything of the kind."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"I did not say that the criminals should not be got hold of. But I complained against the villagers being punished by the quartering of the punitive police. I certainly did not object to the attempts of my hon. friend to get hold of them if he had unlimited resources himself."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"I am very glad to hear that. Sir, I was surprised to hear my hon. friend's advice to leave matters alone. Now he agrees that it is the duty of Government to try and catch these malefactors. It is for that purpose, Sir, that we are quartering the police."

Diwan Bahadur R. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"But it should not be at the expense of the people. That is the trouble."

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The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"I have tried to explain that the police would be there in any case. The hon. Member opposite has to my mind quite rightly said that if we are to have the police it is fair that the villagers who are to a certain extent responsible for not having the business finished should contribute. It is not to be supposed that the levying of such a tax from the villagers is going to reduce them to beggary. We understand just as well as my hon. friend that it is impossible to suppose that the people can pay any very substantial portion of the cost of maintaining the police. We may leave it to Mr. Huggins to see that such contributions towards the cost of the police as may be levied are not vindictive or oppressive but merely such as will suffice to bring the people to what I maintain is the proper frame of mind. If any one will give me any other practical method of managing this affair, I should be delighted to adopt it. And if they would help us to catch the people, I would willingly withdraw the police. But no other alternative has been suggested. Hon. Members tell us that the Agency people are very simple minded, and I maintain that this method of reminding them of their duties is a simple-minded remedy. It is not a question of these people being coerced by the fituridars. What we do object to is that even after the fituridars have passed a certain village, even when the villagers have seen the gang, they will never tell us until perhaps one or two days afterwards when the information is no use to the authorities. I do not think any reason has been shown for the hon. Members of this House to be alarmed at the suggestion of stationing a punitive police in the way in which I have just now described. I therefore hope that the demand will be granted."

The motion was put and lost.

The demand for the supplementary grant was then put and carried and the grant made.

IV

THE MADRAS HINDU RELIGIOUS ENDOWMENTS BILL, 1922.

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"Sir, I beg to present the Report * of the Select Committee on the Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Bill of 1922 and move that the Bill as amended by the Select Committee be taken into consideration. Sir, the Bill has been published in the Gazette and copies of the same circulated to hon. Members of this House. To meet the criticisms offered from various quarters, considerable changes have been introduced in the Bill and on account of these changes the Bill has taken a somewhat altered shape. Accordingly, the Bill was republished in the Gazette in English and the chief languages of the Presidency. The reasons for these changes have been explained in the report and it is therefore unnecessary for me to detain the House at this stage with any lengthy explanation."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU seconded the motion.

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARI:—"Sir, I wish to take a technical objection to the introduction of this Bill. In the original Bill that was introduced, the Preamble stated as follows :

Whereas the previous sanction of the Governor-General has been obtained to the passing of this Act . . .

* Vide page 59, Part IV of the Fort St. George Gazette, dated 6th March 1923.

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In the Bill as amended by the Select Committee, the same wording is adopted in the Preamble. I wish to know whether the further sanction of the Governor-General has been obtained for the Bill as amended by the Select Committee. The provision with reference to the constitution of the Board of Commissioners was not originally made in the Bill; it appears for the first time in the amended Bill. Provision is also made for the imposition of taxes under Clause 77 of the amended Bill. No doubt there are several other alterations made in the Bill; but I think that the two provisions, namely, the constitution of a Board of Commissioners with large administrative, executive and judicial powers, and the imposition of taxes are so radical that the further sanction of the Governor-General is necessary for the introduction of this Bill as amended by the Select Committee.

“I also wish to point out to the House that the original Bill had only 45 Clauses, but the present Bill contains 79 Clauses and most of them embody new provisions, though they are of minor importance except in the case of those I have mentioned already. I also wish to draw the attention of the House to another important amendment, namely, the provision for the contribution by the religious institutions of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent to the Board and another $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent to the Committee. The religious institutions were hitherto contributing nothing to the Board and the Board was never contemplated in the original Bill. I, therefore, wish to know whether previous sanction has been obtained for the introduction of the Bill as amended by the Select Committee; if not, I take exception to the introduction of the Bill.”

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—“Sir, I am indebted to my hon. friend, Mr. Narasimhacharlu, for having brought this point to the notice of the House. I may at once tell the House that recognizing that certain large changes were effected by the Select Committee, the Government of India were addressed on 23rd February 1923 to accord sanction for the new provisions adverted to by my hon. friend.

“It may be remembered that in G.O. No. 149, dated 18th July 1921, the Government have laid down that, if after the introduction of a Bill certain new provisions are introduced and the discussion of the Bill is proceeded with before the receipt of further sanction from the Governor-General, the Local Government shall cause the attention of the House to be drawn to the fact that such report for further sanction has been applied for and that sanction is awaited. It is now the intention of the Government to draw the attention of the House to the fact that the Local Government have applied for sanction in their letter referred to above.

“I also wish to point out that Section 80-A of the Government of India Act says:

Provided that an Act or a provision of an Act made by a local legislature and subsequently assented to by the Governor-General in pursuance of this Act, shall not be deemed invalid by reason only of its requiring the previous sanction of the Governor-General under this Act.

It was with reference to the above proviso, and having regard to the desire on the part of the Government to obtain the previous sanction that a letter was addressed to the Government of India on 23rd February 1923 seeking their sanction for the introduction of this Bill. The House will observe that there has been no delay on the part of this Government.”

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Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—" My point of order is that this Bill shall not be proceeded with until the receipt of the further sanction of the Governor-General."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I overrule that objection, and allow the Bill to be proceeded with."

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—" Sir, I beg to move—

That the consideration of the Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Bill, 1922, be adjourned for at least three months."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The motion is not specific. It simply says that the consideration of the Bill be adjourned for *at least* three months. I therefore rule it out of order."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—" Sir, I beg to move—

That the consideration of the Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Bill, 1922, be adjourned till the Council meets in July next."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" The Council is not likely to meet in July next."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—" I rise to a point of order. You, Sir, ruled the last amendment as out of order owing to its indefiniteness. The present motion is to adjourn the consideration of the Bill to a meeting which is not yet fixed. Is not this also an indefinite motion ?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I do not think this motion is indefinite."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—" Sir, the reasons for my making this motion are manifold. In the first place, the original Bill has been radically altered by the Select Committee. Secondly, the way in which this Bill is being rushed through the Council is objectionable. It has not been published in Oriya, which the Government has recognized as one of the chief languages of the Presidency. In this Presidency there are a million Kanarese-speaking people and the Government have thought it fit to publish the Select Committee Report in that language while they have not thought it fit to publish it in Oriya which is the language spoken by over two millions of people. I would not have cared for the omission to publish the Bill in Oriya but for the fact that there are a number of temples and mutts in the Ganjam district. Their income is something like 20 to 25 lakhs annually and they are adversely affected by this Bill. No opportunity has been given to the Oriya speaking population of this Presidency to know what is going on in this Council. I also wish to bring to the notice of this House that the interval between the publication of the Select Committee Report and the discussion is too short. The people have had no opportunity of deciding whether they are to accept the provisions of the Bill or to suggest amendments to them."

" For these reasons, Sir, and especially on the ground that the Bill has not been published in one of the chief vernaculars of the Presidency, I propose that its consideration be deferred till the Council meets in July."

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Rao Bahadur Dr. C. B. RAMA RAO:—" Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move the following:—

That the consideration of the Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Bill, 1922, be deferred to a period three months hence.

Sir, it is not with a view to place any obstacles on the way of the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government that I bring this motion; on the other hand, I am very anxious that the course of this Bill should be smooth and uneventful. But somehow there is a presentiment in me, Sir, that there might be some difficulties in the working of this Bill. I am not a lawyer, but still I have been speaking about this Bill to a number of lawyers and they have told me that it bristles with many difficulties, that it aims at upsetting many long-standing privileges and that it is likely to evoke much bad blood. I will be the last person to see that anything emanating from this Council should be viewed with disfavour by the people outside, or be thought that it is undermining their safety or well-being. Religion is a very difficult and thorny ground on which none would like to tread and the Englishmen have so far wisely refrained from trespassing on it. In these days when what Hinduism is cannot properly be defined, when what a Hindu is is a matter of very great difficulty to ascertain, when there are many who are born in the Hindu religion but who, at the same time, have no respect for the Hindu religion as such, and when there are caste and internal differences springing up, a Bill embracing the whole field of Hindu religion is one which is bound to meet with a lot of opposition and trouble in its working. There are many other considerations also, Sir, of a similar nature which make me rather anxious that such a Bill should be well thought out and that every community should be offered a reasonable amount of time to discuss the *pros* and *cons* of it before it is passed into an Act.

"For these few reasons, Sir, I beg to make the motion that I have tabled."

*Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO:—" Mr. President, the Bill revised by the Select Committee has been so materially altered both in substance and in drafting that it is of the utmost importance that sufficient time must be allowed to the public to express their opinion on the new provisions. Even in the Select Committee the new provisions had not that careful and deliberate consideration which they deserved and the report is not unanimous. The creation of the Central Board of Charity Commissioners to sit in judgment over the local committees is a fundamental change in the original Bill and it has already created a feeling of alarm and consternation throughout the Presidency. This constitution of the Central Board has given rise to entirely new problems with regard to the financing of the scheme of control; and there are many other points of material importance which are very difficult to solve in the short time we have had at our disposal between the publication of the Select Committee's Report and the introduction of the Bill in the legislature. Further, it has not been published in all the vernaculars of the Presidency. We have no accurate data available at present with regard to the resources of the several endowments, and all the suggestions put forward till now are based upon surmises and possibilities. There is every room for doubt whether the 3 per cent proposed to be raised from the income of endowments will be sufficient to maintain such a costly agency as the one contemplated by the Bill.

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"The cry is raised everywhere that the new agency of control is more objectionable than the provisions in the original Bill. It is not to be forgotten that the Board is not merely an administrative body, but it is also vested with judicial powers which are final in many matters. An attempt is made in the Bill to successfully oust the authority of the established courts of law to which the public are accustomed to resort for settling their disputes. When the District Courts can tackle the question of abuses most effectively with the experience of local conditions, and at less cost to the parties concerned, the Bill proposes to drag the litigants to Madras, with all their paraphernalia of witnesses, and bundles of records, and make them squander their money in expensive train fare and other things, besides causing them a great amount of inconvenience and worry.

"In spite of so much of protest that was raised throughout the length and breadth of the country against the inclusion of *mutts* in the original Bill, the report of the Select Committee has not excluded them from the operations of the modified Bill. The *mutts* are holy institutions presided over by *sanyasins* who are the exponents of one or other of the numerous tenets of the Hindu religion. Moreover, there are many questions of law to be decided before any foreign agency can exercise control over the funds of *mutts*. There is a great misconception that the Matadhipathi is also, like the heads of other endowments, a mere trustee. 27 Madras, 435 says that the head of a *mutt* is not a trustee, but a life tenant. To make the heads of *mutts*, *gurus* of a section of the public who are held in great esteem, subservient to another agency is to humiliate them in the eyes of their disciples and also of the general public. The Queen's Proclamation clearly lays down :

We shall abstain from all interference with the religious beliefs or worships of any of our subjects

and it is upon this solemn declaration that the mutual relations between the subject and the Crown stand. The Bill, if passed into law, would be a direct violation of the Queen's Proclamation, and subversive of all ancient usages, customs and rights of Hindus.

"There are many other questions of paramount importance in the scope and nature of the Bill, such as the provisions relating to the application of surplus funds, which are capable of alteration in the light of public criticism. The recommendations of the Select Committee were published in the Press only as late as March 8th, and sufficient time has not yet elapsed for public opinion to mature and give expression to the solution of intricate problems connected with the Bill. Further, this is not a matter of such grave public importance as to justify it to be hurried through the legislature. The abuses that were being perpetrated in the religious endowments for the last fifty years will not in any way be materially worsened, by allowing some more time to elapse, until at least opinion is clearly expressed on the various issues connected with the Bill. Further, there has been no demand from the parties themselves for the introduction of such a Bill. A grave responsibility lies on this Legislature if they allow the Bill to be rushed through the Council. The cry of religion in danger is raised in every quarter, and, in this case, not without grounds; and the acceptance of the Bill may lead to consequences which we cannot foresee. We may be paving the ground for a storm of agitation and protest, unparalleled in the annals of British Rule in India.

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"Further, what is the hurry to rush this Bill through the Council? Is the party in power afraid that if they let go this opportunity, they will have no other occasion to introduce this Bill? If so, I can assure the hon. the Minister that a time will certainly come, and that shortly, when he may introduce it. Let the party wait. The next election is not far off. Let the election be fought out on this issue and if they succeed in getting a mandate from the country to that effect, let them introduce the Bill. With these few words, I support the motion for the adjournment of the consideration of this Bill."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"Mr. President, the motion standing against my name and which I beg leave to move runs as follows:—

That the discussion of the Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Bill, 1922, be adjourned to the first meeting in the next session of the Legislative Council.

As I do not think that at this stage it is necessary for me to enter into any detailed criticism of a constructive character on the various provisions of the Bill, I shall confine myself to a few remarks of a general character which bear on the question which is immediately before the House for consideration. I shall submit for the consideration of the House a few facts which, I hope, will incline hon. Members to take the view which I wish them to take, viz., that there is hardly any necessity to rush the Bill through at this stage.

"Sixty years have rolled by since Act XX of 1863 was placed on the Statute Book. So far as the Select Committee's report and the amended Bill are concerned, we had copies of them only on the 12th after we came here to the Council meeting; and last Sunday, when I was in my constituency and when I wanted to gauge public opinion, most of my lawyer friends and laymen found themselves unable to help me with any suggestions owing to the fact that either they had not a copy before them, or they had not had sufficient time before them to focus their attention on a proper consideration of the Bill. Hon. Members of this House may be fully aware of the fact that, while this House was flooded with criticisms of a detailed character on the original Bill, the criticisms on this altered Bill, as it has emerged from the Select Committee, have not been numerous. Far from that being invoked as an argument in favour of rushing the Bill through, I would venture to submit that that is a fact which entirely lends support to the position which I ask the House to take up. The paucity of criticism on the Bill as it has emerged out of the Select Committee is not due to any unanimous support which the amended Bill has received at the hands of the public, it is not due to any sense of appreciation or approbation on their part regarding the various provisions of the Bill, which seem to me to be far more drastic than the provisions of the original Bill, but it is mainly due to the ignorance that pervades the community as a whole by reason of want of proper facilities having been afforded to them. It is from this aspect and from this view that the absence of criticisms ought to be viewed. Moreover, in a matter like this touching vitally the religious feelings of the community, one is tempted to sound a note of warning that it is incumbent upon us to proceed with caution. The measure before us deeply affects our religious feelings and it is fraught with serious possibilities. The people have had no sufficient time before them, and there is absolutely no reason why we cannot

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afford to wait for three or four months more and thereby enable the public to help us with their criticisms. Probably, the hon. the Minister, or somebody else from the Treasury Bench may confront us by saying that as many as 1,300 amendments have been received and that is a reason why we could get on with the Bill. So far as the amendments are concerned, some of them have been sent up by hon. Members out of their personal view of the provisions of the Bill without receiving any extraneous assistance, or deriving any material support from their constituency. In a matter like this, when we, the representatives of the people, are called upon to give our assent to a legislation which affects vitally and fundamentally the interests of the people, it is the people's voice that should prevail, the people's voice as reflected in this Council through their representatives. A cycle of 60 years has already passed and I do not think there will be any harm in waiting for another three months. Therefore I appeal to hon. Members opposite to give their assent to the motion before the House."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasaya :—" Sir, I beg to move the following:—

That the discussion of the Madras Religious Endowments Bill, 1922, be adjourned to the first meeting in the next session of the Legislative Council.

Sir, I take this opportunity for thanking the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government for introducing this Bill; but I do not quite agree with him in his attempt to rush the Bill through the House with all haste. The Legislative Council is a deliberative body and in a matter like this it should have sufficient time and sufficient material for coming to any conclusion, because its conclusions are important and binding on the executive. The hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government has placed all the materials before us; some of them we got to-day and some we got only a few days back, and the hon. Members of this House had hardly the time to go through these details minutely, as they were busy with the Budget. The hon. the Minister was kind enough to tell the House that the Select Committee had altered the Bill; but I should rather think that the Bill has been thoroughly changed in most of its important aspects. I for one do not like to discuss the necessity of taking the permission of the Government of India or any such thing; but what I would request is that sufficient time should be given to the people and to hon. Members of this House to think over the question very deeply. Then, Sir, the hon. the Minister was kind enough also to say that the Bill was translated into all the principal languages of this Presidency. I think the Minister has done a wrong to my community, Sir, a wrong to the Oriya language, by saying that he has translated the report of the Select Committee into all the principal languages—if we look at the census report we shall find that the Oriyas come to a fourth in the Presidency in point of numerical strength.

"The hon. the Minister was kind enough to publish the Bill and the report of the Select Committee in Kanarese, a language
12-45 p.m. which is spoken by fewer people than the Oriya language.

Further the Oriya country is studded with mutts and temples. A great author has remarked that the country is a country of temples and tabernacles. In these circumstances this House will not be justified in shutting off its gates to the claims of a community which has the misfortune to be represented by

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only few members. Therefore, Sir, I move the motion standing against my name."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—" I beg to move—

That the consideration of the Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Bill, 1922, posted to 22nd instant, be adjourned to a day six months from that date.

In doing so, I submit that I am not behind any other in my respect and affection for the hon. the Chief Minister, because, firstly, he was my classmate and I had always a high admiration for his calmness, dignity and consideration for any subject that was placed before him even in his college days, and, secondly, because he has persevered in that dignity and calmness, as is evident from his conduct in this Council, for the last two and a half years. Therefore, Sir, if I rise to tender this motion for adjournment it is not with a view to thwart him in the attempt to do a good thing to the country. Rather, it is in the interest of the very party in power which is believing that it is doing some good to the country that I request that party not to hurry even with a good thing lest it might be misconstrued by the people at large. It is with that view that I tabled this motion for adjournment. From what has already taken place, the evil of hurried legislation can be seen. The Bill that was first introduced into this House was not before the public for a long time before it was actually introduced. It was before the public only for about two weeks. Now, Sir, I would ask: Does the Bill that has been sent up by the Select Committee to this Council bear any resemblance to the original Bill that was introduced into this Council? This shows that in the shortness of time which the Select Committee had to deliberate over this Bill they found many defects, many omissions and many commissions which they thought should not be in the Bill.

" Now, this Bill was first published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* on the 6th instant in English and the copies were placed in our hands only about the 10th or the 11th, and it was published in the chief vernaculars only in the last week's gazette, i.e., on the 13th. The people are mostly versed only in the vernaculars, and they must get copies of these gazettes; they must go through them and they must understand what the provisions are which have been introduced into the revised Bill by the Select Committee. I ask, Sir, whether a fair time has been given to the public to consider this question and to formulate their grievances and instruct their representatives in the Council as to what they should do? I submit that sufficient time has not been given at all and that is the reason why this motion has been tabled. Let us see what the majority of the Select Committee have done. The original Bill has been elaborated and added to considerably, so much so that the usual practice of putting in the amendments in bold types could not be followed in this case. Then there are very many views and provisions which are very extraordinary and which, in my opinion, require to be notified and published so that the people may consider and formulate what they like in this matter. For instance the views that have been expressed about the *maths* in paragraphs 5 and 6 of the majority report are very extraordinary. Similarly, a new class of temples which was not in the original Bill, viz., excepted temples, has been introduced. Similarly, a Board of Commissioners to guide, control and co-operate with the Committees and to deal directly with the *maths* and excepted temples has been constituted. This is essentially

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an administrative body, but it is given judicial powers to inquire into and hear appeals. Again, Sir, the Government have substituted their own audit for private audit, which was originally existing in the original Bill. The Madras City has been included now. Regulation VII of 1817 is now sought to be repealed; it was not sought to be so done in the original Bill. The old definitions are now gone and new terms such as *maths*, temples, etc., are newly defined. We find, Sir, with reference to the constitution of the Board and the Committee, very many changes.

"Then, with reference to the religious endowments in general, certain registers are sought to be kept and it may be noticed that a course that will be resented by every self-respecting head of a *math* is suggested, viz., that the Board of Commissioners is to give directions to them and to give orders. The heads of *maths* are to be controlled in such a way as to compel them to keep and render accounts. Those that have no knowledge as to what the attitude of *sisya* and *guru* is, may not realize the magnitude of the gravity of this provision. This means that a lay Board should direct and issue orders to the spiritual heads of institutions who are held in the greatest veneration and who are not called upon to account for what they have done either in this world or in the next world. I say, these provisions are quite new, and the experience of the heads of the *maths* will be quite new hereafter. In view of the sentiments of the people, I submit that this experience will be very revolting to them and to the heads of the *maths*.

"Then, Sir, there is much alteration in the power of the trustee, hereditary as well as non-hereditary; there are changes in the power of the Board to settle schemes; there are changes in the application of the endowment funds; and there are changes in the application of the Civil Procedure Code in regard to the power of the Advocate-General in the matter of suits. There are also changes in regard to court-fees and electoral qualifications. All these are provisions about which considerable modifications and additions have been made in the new Bill. Well, Sir, does this not entitle the public at large to say that they want more time to consider the new Bill? I have already said that it is not the object of my motion to thwart the Bill, and that it is intended only to request the hon. the Minister to postpone the consideration of this Bill by six months, so that people may know where they are and how they will be affected, and shape their conduct accordingly.

"Again, Sir, so far as this Council is concerned, we are just given copies of the several amendments that have been proposed to this Bill. Only to-day at 11 o'clock they were placed in our hands. I find that they consist of more than 600 amendments. Though I have myself given notice of certain amendments, I must know what is the nature of the amendments that have been suggested by the other Members of this Council. Moreover, Sir, we require sometime to give notice of amendments to some of the amendments, if necessary. Where is the time for all this? Why should there be any hurry in passing this legislation which affects the Hindu religion? On this subject I would request the party in power to be very careful, more careful than even the British Government. The British Government have professed neutrality till now and you having come into power wish to take up a subject in which certainly there are certain abuses which you wish to rectify. So much for your advantage and so much has to be said to your credit. But let it be done calmly, quietly and in a dignified manner, so that it may be

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said that you have done this thing for the everlasting good of the country and not that you have done it in a hurry—a hurry in which you have done more harm than good. With these few words, I move this motion."

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—"Sir, the motion that stands in my name runs thus :

That the consideration of the Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Bill, 1922, be adjourned to the next session of the Legislative Council.

Sir, my chief reason for the postponement of this motion is that this Bill has not been published in Malayalam in due time."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"It has been published in Malayalam, Sir."

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—"Not in due time, Sir."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"There is no time-limit prescribed, Sir."

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—"Sir, in Malabar, almost every gentleman is a trustee of some temple or other. My constituency consists of 210 voters who are trustees of temples. In this connexion, I may be permitted to inform the House that at a meeting held at Pattambi it was resolved to request this House to adjourn this motion for the consideration of the Bill.

"Sir, there is one aspect of the question to which I want to draw the attention of the House, and that is, it is for the first time in the history of Malabar that the religious endowments are sought to be managed by the Government. The previous laws on the subject, viz., Act VII of 1817, etc., did not apply to Malabar. As this is the first occasion when these endowments are interfered with, it is desirable that the people whom it affects should be given an opportunity for discussing it in detail. I appeal to the hon. the Minister to consider this point and postpone consideration of this Bill till the next session. I may also say that I have not the least objection for taking it up in July, and if there is no time in July, the Local Boards Bill may be postponed and this may be taken up. With these few words I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"Mr. President, Sir, I have waited in vain to be enlightened as to the correctness of the position taken up by the hon. Members opposite in moving for an adjournment. They have argued at length, but, Sir, all the same I remain as unconvinced as I had been before. The two hon. Members from Ganjam objected to the consideration of the Bill and asked for adjournment on the ground that the Bill was not published in the Oriya language. My reply is that publication in Oriya is not obligatory and that most of the Bills have not been published in that language. The original Bill in this case was not published in Oriya."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasaya :—"I wish to know which Bill has not been published. Every other Bill that was passed by the Government was published in Oriya and this is the only instance where it has not been so published."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"I shall furnish him with that information later. Anyhow, Oriya is not a chief vernacular of the province."

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Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—" I take exception to that statement. Government have said in the past that Oriya is a chief vernacular of the Presidency. The hon. the Raja of Panagal in his days of public life had said in so many words that Oriya was a chief language of the Presidency and that it should be given that recognition. I would refer him to a certain speech he made in which he said like that. Perhaps he has now changed his views."

The hon. the **RAJA OF PANAGAL** :—" I did not in the least suggest any reflection on the linguistic merits of the language. But I say, taking into consideration the population who speak Oriya language, that that language cannot be considered as a chief language in the sense that Tamil or Telugu is."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" Is it justifiable that in such an important measure as this the Bill should not be published in the Oriya language, even though some minor Bills were not published in that language in the past ?"

The hon. the **RAJA OF PANAGAL** :—" Sir, I have already answered that question. I do say that the circumstance that this Bill has not been published in Oriya cannot be a sufficient reason for the adjournment of the Bill."

" My hon. friends from Ganjam, and Messrs. C. B. Rama Rao and U. Rama Rao, objected to the consideration of the Bill on the ground that the Reformed Government was interfering with the religious institutions of the Hindus. They referred to the proclamation of the Great Queen, and said that that proclamation insisted on strict religious neutrality. But the position of the Government now has considerably changed from what it had been during the Queen's time. Now, religious endowments form the portfolio of a responsible Minister, and for any action taken by the Minister in regard to them he is answerable to the Legislative Council consisting mainly of Hindu Members. Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar said that apparently there was no demand for the Bill."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" I never said that there was no demand for the Bill."

The hon. the **RAJA OF PANAGAL** :—" Then, what is your objection to the motion ?"

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" I have already stated it at length."

The hon. the **RAJA OF PANAGAL** :—" Another gentleman, Mr. Prabhakaran Tampan, objected to the consideration of the Bill, because it was not published in Malayalam. As a matter of fact, it was published in Malayalam, and when this was pointed out, he said that it was not done so in time. He also referred to the fact that the Act of 1863 and the Regulation of 1817 are not applicable to Malabar. But what about sections 92 and 93 of the Civil Procedure Code? They are applicable to Malabar. Sir, so far as I am able to gather, the hon. Members in favour of the adjournment have not made out a case for the adjournment of the Bill. If I should accede to the demand for adjournment, what would follow? The hon. Members themselves say that elections will come off before the Bill is again taken up for consideration. If the elections were to intervene during the pendency of the Bill, I am afraid those who are reported to be not very scrupulous as to

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how they use trust funds would have an opportunity to try to tamper with the electorates, and the result would be disastrous to the interests of the unfortunate institutions. Therefore, it is that I think it would be inexpedient to have the consideration of the Bill adjourned."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"One of the motions for the adjournment of the Bill states that the consideration of the Bill be postponed till the Council meets in July, and another, that it should be put off, if not to July, at least to the first meeting of the next session of the Legislative Council. I am sorry to notice that the hon. the Minister in charge of the Bill has not been in a position to appreciate the reasons put forward for the postponement of this Bill. The last argument suggested by him is somewhat disappointing. He suggests that, if this Bill is postponed in view of the coming elections, those who are affected by this Bill, such as the landlords, the trustees of temples, and *matadhipatis*, will tamper with the elections and that therefore on political reasons he cannot agree for postponing the consideration of this Bill. I have greater faith in the good sense of the electors than my hon. friend has. I am quite certain that the electorate, consisting as it does not merely of trustees of temples, office holders, etc., but also of various persons who are equally interested in the management of such temples, should be given an opportunity to say whether they would accept this Bill or not; and the hon. the Minister must accept their decision as the correct thing. That is the main feature of the democratic institution in which we are working."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"A word of personal explanation, Sir. My only observation was that, if we allowed this Bill to be adjourned at this stage, those who had been abusing the trust funds would be tempted to utilize this opportunity to try to tamper with the elections."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"On behalf of the electorate, I may say that the people are wise enough not to be tempted, not to fall, or be snared into the hands of those who are likely to tempt them. I have a great faith that this democracy, consisting of millions of people, will guard itself against the influence of *matadhipatis*, landlords, or trustees of temples."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"I wish it were so."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"Therefore, Sir, I would suggest to the House that that argument need not be considered. On the other hand, what I would urge is this. If this question has really raised any divergence of opinion from all sections of the people and from all parts of the Presidency, is it or is it not wise that, in view of the coming elections, persons who take a real interest in this question should ascertain the views of the electorate? Are we, without hearing the views of the electorate, to state that in the coming elections people will be tempted to do all possible mischiefs, and that therefore we should avoid that issue being put before the country? I think that arguments, such as those advanced by the hon. the Minister, are not reasons which must induce the House to decline the postponement of this measure."

"Now, it has been pointed out that translations of this Bill have been published in some vernaculars, though not in all. The question is, when were they published? So far as I know, they were published in the main vernaculars in the *Gazette* of the 13th instant, and they must have reached the

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mufassal districts either on the 14th, 15th or the 16th instant. Hon. Members who are opposing the consideration of this Bill are not satisfied that the amount of time that has been allowed since the publication in the vernaculars is sufficient to give notice to all persons who know only their vernaculars, and who wish to take a real interest in questions like these. If hon. Members are not satisfied that the time allowed since the publication in the vernaculars has been sufficient, then they are quite justified in opposing this motion. I may also point out that, so far as the new Bill that has emerged from the Select Committee is concerned, there have been fundamental alterations made by the Select Committee upon which it is desirable that we should ascertain the views of the country.

"I do not want to go into the details of the Bill, but I wish to refer to certain particular portions. Let me take the case of excepted temples. Inasmuch as you have excepted in the report of the Select Committee certain temples whose trustees are wealthy zamindars, and because that distinction has been made, we find several amendments have been suggested for the purpose of increasing the number of excepted temples. This question of excepted temples has given rise to several motions and to petitions from those who are connected with the respective temples in order to have them excluded from the operation of this Bill. For instance, we have received representations from the Dikshitars of Chidambaram temple, the Udipi mutt, etc.; and in respect of all these you have to create a distinction, because in the report of the Select Committee it has been deliberately stated that, in view of certain wealthy landlords and zamindars who are making valuable contributions, and also for other reasons, it has been found necessary to exclude certain temples. Now we have got a multitude of amendments, about 800 in number, and suggestions have been made in them for excluding several temples on one ground or another. Can we honestly say, if we can come to a satisfactory conclusion, as to what temples are to be excluded and what not within the very short time that has been given to us to consider, in the face of the so many changes that have been made by the Select Committee? •

"Another thing that I wish to refer to is the question of the Central Board. It will be found that, so far as this question is concerned, there has been a divergence of opinion in the past. In the Bill of 1875 and 1876 there was a provision made for a Central Board. Subsequently when we came to Justice Muttuswami Ayyar's Committee on this matter, the idea of Central Board was given up; and they deliberately referred to the previous decisions for introducing a Central Board and held that, though there was something to be said in favour of the appointment of a Central Board, in the face of the directions of the Government of India to the contrary, they did not proceed with the question of Central Board. No doubt the Government of India have given their consent to the introduction of this Bill, but are we in a position to say that they have given their consent to the appointment of a Central Board? The hon. the Law Member has just told us in reply to an enquiry from one of the hon. Members of this House, that the Government of India has been addressed in the matter, but that they have not received any reply. He only referred to section 80-A of the Government of India Act and stated that there was nothing illegal in proceeding with this Bill, because it would not be invalidated on that account. That is not a point which I raise for the purpose of questioning the correctness of the ruling. It is a matter for consideration that the idea of the Central Board has been raised for the

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first time in the Select Committee. It is necessary, therefore, that we should ascertain the views of the people affected on this matter before we proceed with the Bill.

“Another point to which I wish to refer is this : that in the case of similar Bills, elaborate enquiries were held before they were actually introduced. In England they appointed a committee in 1813, and it was followed by a royal commission. Subsequent to that there was a Committee of the House of Commons and in this manner there were elaborate enquiries at every stage.”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“We have had such enquiries during the last fifty years. Probably once in every five years.”

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—“I wish to point out that in other countries, there were full enquiries made in the case of the charitable Trusts Act and other such Acts before the Bills were passed. After the Act of 1863 was passed, we have had the Bill of Justice Muttuswami Ayyar's Committee, and other Bills. In all these committees except that a few changes were made, nothing more has been done. Then I ask my hon. friend whether any deliberate enquiry was made as to the history of these temples before the introduction of the Bill and what precautions have been taken in the case of excepted temples. We find in the provisions of the new Bill that the Committee or the Board to be appointed should frame a register and give full account. My point is that these enquiries should have been made and the information should have been made available to the public, before the Bill was brought forward.”

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—“It seems to me altogether unnecessary to examine the various provisions of the

1-15 p.m.

• Bill in a consideration of a motion for putting off this Bill. It seems to me altogether unnecessary to say that the Bill, as it has emerged from the Select Committee, is entirely a new Bill and has very little resemblance to the one which it has superseded. Sir, my hon. friend, the Minister, said that he looked in vain for an argument to convince him and he said that he was as little convinced as he was when the motion was made. Sir, it is very difficult to convince my hon. friend : it is an herculean task. The only gentlemen, so far as I know, who are adepts at convincing my hon. friend and his colleagues, are the gentlemen who support him in this House (hear, hear). The conviction or rather the conversion that seems to come from his own supporters always is a conviction which is very different from the one which comes from the opposite benches (hear, hear). My friend said that in all parliamentary assemblies the Opposition was generally looked to for the purpose of seeing whether a measure was reasonable or whether the Opposition that was offered to it was based upon substantial grounds. But here my hon. friend seems of course to be unconvinced. My hon. friends, Mr. Usman Sahib and Mr. Natesa Mudaliyar, are the gentlemen who certainly support that conviction in the minds of the Minister, but whether any convictions flow from those arguments is a matter for him to consider. I do not wish to say anything further as to the question whether any conviction can come from any arguments pressed by us. But, Sir, the suggestion made by my hon. friend for not acceding to our request is the strangest that I have heard from gentlemen who say that they are the representatives of the democracy. My hon. friend, the Minister, has made very grave reflections on the electorate of this Presidency. He said that gentlemen would abuse their trust, go about and tamper with the electors, and when some further opinion was sought

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to be elicited he said he wished it was not so, thereby confirming the reflections that he made on the electors. Their readiness to be tampered with seemed to be a settled conviction with my hon. friend."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"There is a shade of difference between what my hon. friend states and what I said. What I said was that they would be tempted to tamper with the electorates. It does not necessarily mean that the people would allow themselves to be tampered with. An attempt may be made by those who are interested in seeing things go on as they do at present. I do not think there is much force in my hon. friend's criticism."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"My hon. friend is trying now to exculpate the charge made against them, and he wishes to confine the charge to those who are now abusing their trust, rather who are reported to be abusing their trust. Now, my friend is receding step by step from the position which he took up" (laughter).

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"I said those who are reported to be not very scrupulous in using trust funds."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"I did hear what my hon. friend said. Certainly I have no objection to what he said. He has to be doing so every now and then" (laughter).

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"I did say 'reported to be abusing the trust funds'."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"Well, all that I can say is that he charged both the electors and the tamperers. There is one issue apart from the result of the motion. If there is one issue which my hon. friend will submit as an issue of first-rate importance to the electorate, it is this question of the reform of religious endowments. My hon. friend is afraid to submit it to the electorate at the coming elections. I do not say we desire it. If that is his intention, I do not see why he should not do it. Well, Sir, having said that that is a very strange reason which he has advanced and that it is not at all one which should at any rate be convincing to the House, I only wish to make a few more remarks. Without the slightest desire to put off this much-needed reform longer than is needed, I think it is one of those cases which should be brought up at the next meeting of the Council. Whether it is in July, or in August, or in June, it is not a matter in which we are particularly interested. I should think that there is a general desire that this Bill should be bettered. We have many provisions which are entirely new, and it is all the more reasonable and necessary that those who will be affected by this Bill, either as trustees or personal worshippers, or as those who are interested in the religious institutions, should have a clear idea of the measure so that they may offer such criticisms as there may be as regards the provisions of this Bill. I think it is an essential thing which my hon. friend will have to look into. The Bill should not be considered as a party measure. We are anxious to see certain reforms in religious institutions. I venture to think that a measure of this importance, which has waited from 1863 and was reviewed by various committees, can as well wait for another two months or a month and a half. If my hon. friend would put on the statute book a measure which is being criticized, certainly he will have every reason to congratulate himself. But if he wishes, by opposing this motion, to rush this measure, it is certainly open to him to do so. As regards

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the competence of such a thing he knows that there are people with whose help he can rush through this Bill. I do not wish to make this a bone of contention and I therefore venture to think that my friend should see this matter in the light in which we have put before him."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—"I move that the Question be now put."

The motion for closure was put and carried.

The motion to take the Bill into consideration was put and carried. A poll was taken and the House divided as follows :—

Ayes.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. The hon. Sir Charles Todhunter. | 30. Mr. K. Sarabha Reddi. |
| 2. " Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Habib-ullah Sahib Bahadur. | 31. " W. P. A. Saundara Pandiya Nadar. |
| 3. " the Raja of Panagal. | 32. " R. K. Shanmukham Chettiyar. |
| 4. " Mr. A. R. Knapp. | 33. " K. Sitarama Reddi. |
| 5. " Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar. | 34. " T. Somasundara Mudaliyar. |
| 6. Mr. E. S. Lloyd. | 35. " S. Somasundara Pillai. |
| 7. " A. Y. G. Campbell. | 36. " P. Subbarayan. |
| 8. Rai Bahadur N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar. | 37. Diwan Bahadur K. Suryanarayanamurti Nayudu. |
| 9. Mr. C. Madhavan Nayar. | 38. Rao Bahadur C. Venkataranga Reddi. |
| 10. Diwan Bahadur T. N. Sivagnanam Pillai. | 39. Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai. |
| 11. Rao Sahib T. Thangavelu Pillai. | 40. Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimha Raju. |
| 12. Mr. A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar. | 41. Diwan Bahadur R. Venkataatnam Nayudu. |
| 13. " C. Ramalinga Chettiyar. | 42. Mr. S. Muttumanickachari. |
| 14. " S. T. Shanmukham Pillai. | 43. " A. T. Palmer. |
| 15. Diwan Bahadur C. Arunachala Mudaliyar. | 44. " A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar. |
| 16. Rao Sahib S. Ellappa Chettiyar. | 45. Raja of Ramnad. |
| 17. Rao Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu. | 46. Qadri Nava Khan Sahib Bahadur. |
| 18. " T. Balaji Rao Nayudu. | 47. Abbas Ali Khan Bahadur. |
| 19. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar. | 48. Muhammad Abdur Rahim Khan Sahib. |
| 20. Rao Bahadur O. Thanikachala Chettiyar. | 49. Khan Sahib Munshi Muhammad Abdur Rahiman Sahib. |
| 21. Mr. W. Vijayaraghava Mudaliyar. | 50. Mr. Saiyid Diwan Abdul Razaak Sahib. |
| 22. " K. A. Kandaswami Kandar. | 51. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Sadulla Badsha Sahib Bahadur. |
| 23. " B. Muniawami Nayudu. | 52. Mr. Haji Abdulla Sahib. |
| 24. " A. T. Muttukumaraswami Chettiyar. | 53. Rao Sahib M. C. Madura Pillai. |
| 25. " M. Narayanaswami Reddi. | 54. " P. Venkatarangayya. |
| 26. Rao Bahadur C. Natesa Mudaliyar. | |
| 27. Mr. V. Pakkiriswami Pillai. | |
| 28. " P. T. Rajan. | |
| 29. Rao Bahadur A. Ramayya Panja. | |

Noes.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. S. R. Y. Ankinedu Prasad Bahadur. | 11. Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo. |
| 2. Mr. M. Appalanarasaya Nayudu. | 12. Rai Bahadur T. Narasimhaacharu. |
| 3. Diwan Bahadur S. R. M. M. Pethachi Chettiyar. | 13. Rao Bahadur Dr. C. B. Rama Rao. |
| 4. Rao Bahadur K. Gopalakrishnayya. | 14. Rao Sahib U. Rama Rao. |
| 5. Mr. K. P. Gopala Menon. | 15. Sriman Sasibhushana Rath Mahasayo. |
| 6. " A. Thangavelu Nayar. | 16. Mr. R. Srinivas Ayyangar. |
| 7. Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao. | 17. " M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar. |
| 8. Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu. | 18. " K. Prabhakaran Lampan. |
| 9. Mr. P. Siva Rao. | 19. Diwan Bahadur Govindoss Chathurbujados. |
| 10. " M. Suryanarayana. | 20. Rao Bahadur T. Numberumal Chettiyar. |

Fifty-four voted for the motion and 20 against. The motion was carried.

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"Sir, I move that the further consideration of the Bill be adjourned to to-morrow morning. 1-30 p.m. There has been some delay in printing and circulating the amendments. They were circulated rather late last night and it would be convenient to hon. Members if the further consideration of the Bill is taken up to-morrow."

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The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—" I second the motion."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Sir, I beg to move an amendment to the hon. Member's motion. I propose that instead of 'to-morrow' 'some day next week' be substituted. I did not want to take part in the last debate as I was doubtful as to what should be done in this matter. I was carefully watching for the reasons that might be given by both sides. I certainly expected very good suggestions or reasons from the hon. the Minister not only for opposing a long adjournment but also for immediately taking the Bill into consideration. No doubt he gave some reasons for not postponing it long. But one of those was the fresh elections. I have always admired his wisdom in using just the necessary words and also his wisdom in not using unnecessary words, and I wish in this connexion he had not used the words which he used regarding the elections. If really the opposing of this Bill is going to result in the fact that a lot of people are going to spend public money for the purpose of election . . ."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I believe the hon. Member's proposal is to adjourn the further consideration of the Bill to some day next week, and the hon. the Minister's motion is to adjourn it to to-morrow morning. I think the hon. Member had better confine himself to the merits of these two proposals."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" I do not want a long adjournment. I want an adjournment for only one week. The Report of the Select Committee was given on the 12th. Several Members have added notes of dissent. We were asked to send our amendments before the 15th. There had hardly been any time to go through the report and send the amendments. Amendments are pouring in, as it were. Yesterday in the midnight we received one batch of amendments; a second batch we received this morning and a third batch just a while ago, and we are not sure whether there may not be a fourth batch. The hon. Member in charge of the Bill should realize that we have had no time to consider all these amendments. There was hardly any time to study all this before we came to the House. We have already two volumes of matter connected with this Bill and to-day we have got another volume, and this volume takes us into the history half a century back. Are we not to read all this before we deal with this Bill? Is it not expected that we should read all these? It may be said that it is the decision of the House. But the decision of the House is the decision of the party in power; the decision of the party is the decision of the leaders and the decision of the leaders is the decision of the Minister in charge. Then, we are all unnecessary. The speeches that we make should be reasonable. Again, there is one amendment regarding the Chidambaram temple. The amendment may be perfectly relevant. But should we not go through the various clauses carefully and see whether these amendments are reasonable or not? Is not the hon. Minister himself to see that some of these amendments at least are carefully gone through and considered and then decided upon? If the considered opinion of the House is wanted, it is necessary that some time should be given to the House. Many hon. Members know how they have been bombarded with petitions and prayers after the Bill was published in the vernaculars. The hon. Member in charge of the Bill knows how many people have appealed to him. My hon. friend, Mr. Ramaswami Mudaliyar, and other hon. Members know how they have been bombarded as regards the Chidambaram and Tirupati

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temples. Various suggestions are still coming in. I think that in this case the six days' time for amendments should not be adhered to. I, therefore, suggest that the Bill may be taken up some day next week so that, in the meanwhile, we may be able to go through the voluminous record. We may consult among ourselves and see what amendments will be more reasonable and may be moved, and we may eliminate some by mutual consent. This would save the time of the Council to a great extent. I don't want that amendments should be moved unnecessarily. Therefore, if really any reasonable and serious discussion is wanted, I think this Bill should be taken up some day next week. This is a very reasonable request and I do not think the hon. Minister will have any objection to it."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasaya:—"I second the amendment."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"I have no objection to adjourn the further consideration to Monday morning."

The motion to adjourn further consideration of the Bill to Monday morning was put and carried unanimously.

The Council adjourned at 1-45 p.m. to meet again at 11 a.m. on Monday, the 26th March 1923.

L. D. SWAMIKANNU,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

வாய்மையே வெல்லும்
TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS

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THIRD SESSION

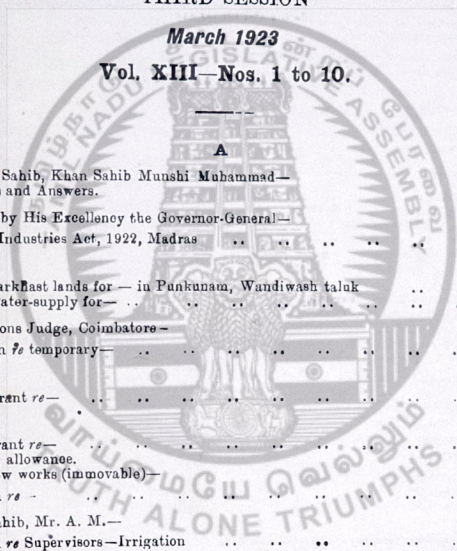
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